



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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AmeriCorps Grant to Establish Statewide Veterans Corps

RICHMOND – Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) Commissioner Martin Brown announced today that Virginia's [Wounded Warrior Program](#) (VWWP) was awarded one of 22 grants, all part of a larger \$3.1 million grant, from VDSS' Office of Volunteerism and Community Services. The funding will create a new statewide Virginia Veterans Corps (VVC) program, which will begin in Eastern Virginia and expand to other localities in 2012.

"It's critical that Virginia supports those who have bravely served and sacrificed," said Commissioner Brown. "This funding will provide compassionate community-to-veteran assistance to our military service members, veterans and their families."

The program, which has been under development for two years, is to be implemented over three years and serve active duty military families, veterans and their families. Members, called "navigators," will serve as part of the VWWP through participating organizations and have critical, working knowledge of community resources most needed, such as healthcare, behavioral health, social services, employment and other individual and family services.

"In many cases, military service members, veterans and their families simply don't know where to begin looking for the help they need," said Catherine Wilson, Executive Director of VWWP. "This exciting new program will give us the opportunity to strengthen the outreach of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program throughout our Region V that comprises Hampton Roads, the Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula and Eastern Shore of Virginia." The program will expand to other areas of the state during the second and third years.

AmeriCorps funding is awarded to the states through formula funding grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America, and leads the President's national call to service initiative entitled *United We Serve*. For more information about AmeriCorps in Virginia visit www.vaservice.org/go/national/americorps.

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